

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS****JAMILE KAROUT****(b)** County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff **PHILADELPHIA**  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)**(c)** Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)**Sidney L. Gold, Esquire - Sidney L. Gold & Assoc., P.C.**  
**1835 Market St., Ste. 515, Phila, PA 19103 215-569-1999****DEFENDANTS****PUBLICIS HEALTH MEDIA, LLC**County of Residence of First Listed Defendant **PHILADELPHIA**  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☒ 3 Federal Question  
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity  
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |   | PTF                                   | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5            |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6            |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
1981, PHRA, TITLE VII  
Brief description of cause:**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.**DEMAND \$**  
150,000 IN EXCESS

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

**JURY DEMAND:** ☒ Yes ☐ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCKET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

10/07/2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Sidney L. Gold, Esquire

Digitally signed by Sidney L. Gold, Esquire  
Date: 2021.10.07 11:52:56 -0400**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_ JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ MAG. JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

## Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
- Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
- Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
- Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
- Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
- Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**DESIGNATION FORM**

*(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)*

Address of Plaintiff: 1330 N. 26th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19121

Address of Defendant: 100 Penn Square East, 11th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 100 Penn Square East, 11th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

**RELATED CASE, IF ANY:**

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil cases are deemed related when **Yes** is answered to any of the following questions:

- |  |                              |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case ☐ is / ☒ is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 10/07/2021 /s/ Sidney L. Gold, Esq. 21374  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

**CIVIL: (Place a ✓ in one category only)**

**A. Federal Question Cases:**

- ☐ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts  
☐ 2. FELA  
☐ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury  
☐ 4. Antitrust  
☐ 5. Patent  
☐ 6. Labor-Management Relations  
☒ 7. Civil Rights  
☐ 8. Habeas Corpus  
☐ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases  
☐ 10. Social Security Review Cases  
☐ 11. All other Federal Question Cases  
(Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:**

- ☐ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts  
☐ 2. Airplane Personal Injury  
☐ 3. Assault, Defamation  
☐ 4. Marine Personal Injury  
☐ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury  
☐ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ 7. Products Liability  
☐ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos  
☐ 9. All other Diversity Cases  
(Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION**

*(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)*

I, SIDNEY L. GOLD, ESQUIRE, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:

☒ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:

☒ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 10/07/2021 /s/ Sidney L. Gold, Esq. 21374  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

JAMILE KAROUT	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	
v.	:	
PUBLICIS HEALTH MEDIA, LLC	:	
	:	NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

**SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:**

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ( )
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ( )
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ( )
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ( )
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) ( )
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (☒)

<u>10/07/2021</u>	<u>/s/ Sidney L. Gold, Esq.</u>	<u>PLAINTIFF</u>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Attorney-at-law</b>	<b>Attorney for</b>
<u>(215) 569-1999</u>	<u>(215) 569-3870</u>	<u>sgold@discrimlaw.net</u>
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>FAX Number</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>

**Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan**  
**Section 1:03 - Assignment to a Management Track**

- (a) The clerk of court will assign cases to tracks (a) through (d) based on the initial pleading.
- (b) In all cases not appropriate for assignment by the clerk of court to tracks (a) through (d), the plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court and serve with the complaint on all defendants a case management track designation form specifying that the plaintiff believes the case requires Standard Management or Special Management. In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.
- (c) The court may, on its own initiative or upon the request of any party, change the track assignment of any case at any time.
- (d) Nothing in this Plan is intended to abrogate or limit a judicial officer's authority in any case pending before that judicial officer, to direct pretrial and trial proceedings that are more stringent than those of the Plan and that are designed to accomplish cost and delay reduction.
- (e) Nothing in this Plan is intended to supersede Local Civil Rules 40.1 and 72.1, or the procedure for random assignment of Habeas Corpus and Social Security cases referred to magistrate judges of the court.

**SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CASE ASSIGNMENTS**  
**(See §1.02 (e) Management Track Definitions of the**  
**Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan)**

Special Management cases will usually include that class of cases commonly referred to as "complex litigation" as that term has been used in the Manuals for Complex Litigation. The first manual was prepared in 1969 and the Manual for Complex Litigation Second, MCL 2d was prepared in 1985. This term is intended to include cases that present unusual problems and require extraordinary treatment. See §0.1 of the first manual. Cases may require special or intense management by the court due to one or more of the following factors: (1) large number of parties; (2) large number of claims or defenses; (3) complex factual issues; (4) large volume of evidence; (5) problems locating or preserving evidence; (6) extensive discovery; (7) exceptionally long time needed to prepare for disposition; (8) decision needed within an exceptionally short time; and (9) need to decide preliminary issues before final disposition. It may include two or more related cases. Complex litigation typically includes such cases as antitrust cases; cases involving a large number of parties or an unincorporated association of large membership; cases involving requests for injunctive relief affecting the operation of large business entities; patent cases; copyright and trademark cases; common disaster cases such as those arising from aircraft crashes or marine disasters; actions brought by individual stockholders; stockholder's derivative and stockholder's representative actions; class actions or potential class actions; and other civil (and criminal) cases involving unusual multiplicity or complexity of factual issues. See §0.22 of the first Manual for Complex Litigation and Manual for Complex Litigation Second, Chapter 33.

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

JAMILE KAROUT,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO.:
<i>Plaintiff,</i>	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
PUBLICIS HEALTH MEDIA, LLC,	:	
<i>Defendant.</i>	:	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND**

**I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT:**

1. This is an action for an award of damages, attorney’s fees and other relief on behalf of Plaintiff, Jamile Karout (“Plaintiff Karout”), a former employee of Defendant, Publicis Health Media, LLC (“Defendant”), who was harmed by the Defendant’s discriminatory and retaliatory employment practices.

2. This action arises under 42 U.S.C. §1981 ("§1981"), the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (“PHRA”), and 43 P.S. § 951, et seq., Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000 (e), et seq., as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, at 42 U.S.C. § 1981 (a) (“Title VII”).

**II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE:**

3. The original jurisdiction of this Court is invoked, and venue is proper in this judicial district, pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1391, as Plaintiff Karout’s claims are substantively based on §1981 and Title VII, and a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiff Karout’s claims occurred in this district.

4. The supplemental jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367 to consider Plaintiff Karout’s claims arising under the PHRA.

5. All conditions precedent to the institution of this suit have been fulfilled and Plaintiff Karout has satisfied all jurisdictional prerequisites to the maintenance of this action. On July 9, 2021, a Notice of Right to Sue notice was issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”) and this action has been filed within ninety (90) days of receipt of said notice.

### **III. PARTIES:**

6. Plaintiff, Jamile Karout (“Plaintiff Karout”) is a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing therein at 1330 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19121.

7. Defendant, Publicis Health Media, LLC (“Defendant”), is a corporation maintaining a place of business at 100 Penn Square East, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107.

8. At all times relevant hereto, the Defendant was acting through its agents, servants, and employees, who were acting within the scope of their authority, course of their employment, and under the direct control of the Defendant.

9. At all times material herein, the Defendant has been a “person” and “employer” as defined under §1981, Title VII, and the PHRA, and accordingly is subjected the provisions of each said Act.

#### **IV. STATEMENT OF CLAIMS:**

10. Plaintiff Karout, a thirty-six (36) year old female, was employed by the Defendant from on or about February 20, 2018 until on or about April 19, 2019, the date of her unlawful termination.

11. Throughout her tenure of employment, Plaintiff Karout held the position of Associate Director of Business Intelligence, and at all times maintained a satisfactory job performance rating in said capacity.

12. Upon commencing employment, the Defendant assigned Plaintiff Karout to one client account, Gilead. By way of background, Gilead retained The Defendant to create advertising for an HIV drug, specifically targeting minority and LGBTQ communities. As Plaintiff Karout is a member of both communities, Plaintiff Karout endeavored to offer her perspective and input to enhance the advertising efforts of the said account.

13. Importantly, Plaintiff Karout was the sole Queer African American employee on the Gilead account team.

14. During Plaintiff Karout's assignment to the Gilead account, Plaintiff Karout voiced her opposition to the Defendant's harmful stereotyping of each such community in its targeted advertising. However, the Defendant consistently dismissed Plaintiff Karout's ideas, and refused to incorporate her insights into the project.

15. As evidence of the Defendant's discriminatory bias, Laura Hitchings ("Hitchings"), Media Supervisor, stated during a Gilead team meeting that "black men weren't able to accept their sexual health risk", perpetuating a harmful stereotype of



homosexual African American men. Plaintiff Karout immediately protested Hitchings' discriminatory stereotyping.

16. On or about August 2018, the Defendant removed Plaintiff Karout from the Gilead account, allegedly due to the "sensitive nature" of the Defendant's relationship with the client. Plaintiff Karout believes and avers that the articulated reason for her removal was pretextual and that the Defendant actually removed Plaintiff Karout from the account due to her race and/or sexual orientation, and/or in retaliation for Plaintiff Karout's protestations to The Defendant's racial and gender stereotyping.

17. As a result of Plaintiff Karout's removal from the Gilead account, Irene Coyne ("Coyne"), a Senior Vice President, instructed Plaintiff Karout to "stay in [her] lane" during a business meeting, evidencing her discriminatory bias toward Plaintiff Karout based on her race and/or sexual orientation.

18. As further evidence of discrimination, the Defendant stated in Plaintiff Karout's annual 2018 review that Plaintiff Karout was "combative, aggressive and unwilling to compromise," and requested that she "passively listen in meetings" in an "approachable and respectful manner". Plaintiff Karout believes and avers that the said comments were based on stereotypes of African American women and did not reflect Plaintiff Karout's performance.

19. In or about February of 2019, Kate Gatusso ("Gatusso") became Plaintiff Karout's direct supervisor and perpetuated the ongoing campaign of discrimination against Plaintiff Karout based on her race and/or sexual orientation.

20. By way of example, on or about March 21, 2019, the Defendant, through John Cortese (“Cortese”) and Gatusso issued Plaintiff Karout an unjustified performance improvement plan (“PIP”).

21. On or about March 27, 2019, Plaintiff Karout registered a complaint of discrimination with Cortese and Gatusso regarding the issuance of the PIP. Cortese and Gatusso failed and refused to investigate Plaintiff Karout’s complaints or cause the discriminatory treatment to cease.

22. On or about April 1, 2019, Plaintiff Karout registered another complaint of discrimination with Dave Nussbaum (“Nussbaum”), Senior Vice President. Plaintiff Karout further expressed her concerns about the unjustified PIP and Gatusso’s discriminatory behavior. Nussbaum agreed that the PIP was an example of an ongoing discriminatory campaign against Plaintiff Karout based on her race and/or sexual orientation.

23. On or about April 11, 2019, Plaintiff Karout registered another complaint of discrimination with Alaina Megill (“Megill”), HR Director. Plaintiff Karout stated her belief that the PIP was unjustifiably issued for discriminatory and/or retaliatory purposes.

24. Immediately thereafter, on or about April 19, 2019, the Defendant abruptly terminated Plaintiff Karout, allegedly due to performance issues and “misconduct.” Importantly, Plaintiff Karout was never disciplined for any alleged “misconduct” during her tenure.

25. Plaintiff Karout believes and avers that the articulated reason for her termination was pretextual and that the Defendant actually terminated her employment

based on her race (African-American) and/or her sexual orientation and/or in retaliation for opposing unlawful discrimination in the workplace.

**COUNT I**  
**(42 U.S.C. §1981 – Race Discrimination, Retaliation)**  
**Plaintiff Karout vs. Defendant**

26. Plaintiff Karout incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 25 of her Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.

27. The actions of the Defendant, through its agents, servants and employees, in subjecting Plaintiff Karout to discrimination on the basis of her race (African-American) and retaliation for reporting unlawful race discrimination in the workplace, constituted violations of 42 U.S.C. §1981.

28. As a direct result of the aforesaid unlawful discriminatory employment practices engaged in by the Defendant in violation of 42 U.S.C. §1981, as aforesaid, Plaintiff Karout sustained permanent and irreparable harm, which caused her to sustain a loss of earnings, plus the value of certain benefits, plus loss of future earning power, plus back pay, and front pay and interest due thereon.

29. As a further direct result of the aforesaid unlawful discriminatory employment practices engaged in by the Defendant in violation of 42 U.S.C. §1981, Plaintiff Karout suffered severe emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation, and loss of self-esteem.

**COUNT II**  
**(PHRA-Race Discrimination, Sex Discrimination, Retaliation)**  
**Plaintiff Karout v. Defendant**

30. Plaintiff Karout incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 29 of her Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.

31. The actions of the Defendant, through its agents, servants and employees, in subjecting Plaintiff Karout to discrimination because of her race (African-American), sex and/or sexual orientation and/or failure to conform to sex stereotypes and/or in retaliation for opposing unlawful discrimination, constituted violations of the PHRA.

32. As a direct result of the aforesaid unlawful discriminatory and retaliatory employment practices engaged in by the Defendant in violation of the PHRA, Plaintiff Karout sustained permanent and irreparable harm, resulting in the loss of her employment, which caused her to sustain a loss of earnings, plus the value of certain benefits, plus loss of future earning power, plus back pay, and front pay and interest due thereon.

33. As a further direct result of the aforesaid unlawful discriminatory and retaliatory employment practices engaged in by the Defendant in violation of the PHRA, Plaintiff Karout suffered severe emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation, and loss of self-esteem.

**COUNT III**  
**(Title VII- Race Discrimination, Sex Discrimination, Retaliation)**  
**Plaintiff Karout v. the Defendant**

34. Plaintiff Karout incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 33 of her Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.

35. The actions of the Defendant, through its agents, servants and employees, in subjecting Plaintiff Karout to discrimination because of her race (African-American), sex and/or sexual orientation and/or failure to conform to sex stereotypes and/or in retaliation for opposing unlawful discrimination, constituted violations of Title VII.

36. As a direct result of the aforesaid unlawful discriminatory and retaliatory employment practices engaged in by the Defendant in violation of Title VII, as aforesaid, Plaintiff Karout sustained permanent and irreparable harm, which caused her to sustain a loss of earnings, plus the value of certain benefits, plus loss of future earning power, plus back pay, and front pay and interest due thereon.

37. As a further direct result of the aforesaid unlawful discriminatory and retaliatory employment practices engaged in by the Defendants in violation of Title VII, Plaintiff Karout suffered severe emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation, and loss of self-esteem.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

38. Plaintiff Karout incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 37 of this Complaint as though fully set forth at length herein.

39. **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff Karout respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in her favor against the Defendant, and order that:

a. Defendant compensate Plaintiff Karout for the wages and other benefits and emoluments of employment lost, because of its unlawful conduct;

b. Defendant compensate Plaintiff Karout with an award of front pay, if appropriate;

c. Defendant pay to Plaintiff Karout punitive damages, compensatory damages for future pecuniary losses, pain, emotional suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment of life, and other non-pecuniary losses as allowable;

d. Defendant pay to Plaintiff Karout pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, cost of suit, and attorney and expert witness fees as allowed by law;

e. The Court award such other relief as it deemed just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff Karout demands a trial by jury.

**SIDNEY L. GOLD & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**

By: /s/Sidney L. Gold, Esquire  
SIDNEY L. GOLD, ESQUIRE  
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1835 Market Street, Suite 515  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 569-1999  
**Attorney for Plaintiff**

DATED: October 7, 2021

**VERIFICATION**

I hereby verify that the statements contained in this **Complaint** are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of Title 18 Pa. C.S.A. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

DATE: 10/5/2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMILE KAROUT, PLAINTIFF